

REMARKS

In this amendment, claim 3 has been canceled and claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1 and 5-13 are presently pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended to correct dependencies and to improve readability. Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 12 and 13 are allowed, and that claims 3, 7, 9, and 11 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and have canceled claim 3. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 5-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 3, and 5-11 and rejected claims 1, 3, and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the objection and the rejection.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1 and 5-13 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments to the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined.

Finally, Applicant submits that entry of this Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this

Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 50-4126.

Respectfully submitted,

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